

June 2 1940  
55 Somerset St.  
Newark N.J.

Dr. B.B.Martin  
Mr. Thomas T. Wilson  
Chairman of The Negro National and American Leagues Resp.

Gentlemen:

I have written you both previously about the following matter, but since then I have come into possession of some new facts that I want to relay to you.

On Friday May 31st I received a wire from Satchell Paige asking me to call him in Richmond Va. that day. I called him and followed the call by going to Richmond the same day, accompanied by Mr. Menley and Mule Suttles. I have almost developed an immunity to shocks where our baseball is concerned, but I was really shocked to find Mr. Wilkinson of The Kansas City Monarch in Richmond with Satchell and the team. I also learned that The Satchell Paige All Stars, owned by the western booking agent(?), and The Brooklyn Royals, owned by the eastern booking agent, have been barnstorming all over the country for the past few weeks playing each other. It is as plain as day that the booking agents have agreed to try and keep Paige away from The Eagles at all cost.

I can easily understand this as self preservation is the first law of nature, but what I cannot understand is The Negroes who have invested so heavily in this business, and the honest white men connected with it, standing for this sort of thing.

I have agreed to pay Paige the largest salary ever payed a Negro ballplayer in the history of the game. He cannot possibly earn anywhere the amount with the team he is now with. There is only one conclusion to reach.

I expect each of you to order Wilkinson to send Paige to Newark immediately this week. If organized baseball is not strong enough to do this, it is not strong enough to call itself organized and anything may happen.

Whatever decision you reach remember there is a big race issue involved, "Negro Baseball". It is probably at the crossroads, and its future may depend upon your handling of this present situation. I pray you will have divine guidance at this time.

Very Truly Yours